

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02901 041224Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
/083 W

-----041255Z 050841 /44

R 041140Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1892
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2901

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1(DECONTROL 1995)
TAGS: PFOR AF IR
SUBJ: STATUS OF AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 2111(NOTAL, TEHRAN 1020(NOTAL)

1. AFGHAN AMB ZALMAY MAHMUD-GHAZI CONFIRMS INFORMATION
KABUL REFTEL THAT AFGHANS ARE READY TO FORMALIZE RATIFICATION OF
1973 HELMAND WATERS TREATY. HE IS SEEING FONMIN KHALATBARY
TODAY, APRIL 4, TO INFORM HIM OF THIS FACT AND ASK WHERE
IRANIANS PREFER TO HOLD CEREMONY EXCHANGING DOCUMENTS.

2. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT, FROM TENOR OF OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN AFGHAN AND IRANIAN REPS, AS WELL AS TRAFFIC IN OTHER
CHANNELS, THAT IRANIANS HAVE BEEN FOOT-DRAGGING ON
ASSISTANCE FUNDS DUE TO AFGHAN PLANS TO CONSTRUCT KAMAL KHAN
DAM. AFGHAN AMB WAS NOT RESPONSIVE WHEN ADCM ASKED HIM A FEW
DAYS AGO IF HE THOUGH RATIFICATION OF TREATY WOULD
BE SUFFICIENT TO PACIFY IRANIANS AND GET FLOW OF FUNDS
STARTED AGAIN. IMPLICATION WAS HE DOUBTED THIS WOULD DO
IT. HE REITERATED HIS OWN OPINION (SEE TEHRAN REFTEL)
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THAT AFGHAN GOVT WAS BEING UNNECESSARILY STIFFNECKED
ABOUT IRANIAN USE OF SURPLUS WATERS WHICH KAMAL KHAN DAM
WILL DIVER INTO DESERT AREA. HE THOUGHT AFGHANS SHOULD
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT A SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT WITH
IRAN PERMITTING IRAN'S USE OF SURPLUS WATERS UNTIL THEY
CEASE TO BE SURPLUS TO AFGHAN'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS SOMETIME
IN THE FUTURE. AMB READILY ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT

THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN THE THOUGHT THAT, ONCE
PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED, AFGHANS MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
DENY IRANIANS USE OF THESE WATERS IN THE FUTURE.

3. AMB CONFIDED (ASKING THAT WE PROTECT INFORMATION
FOR THE PRESENT) THAT HE IS ALSO INFORMING KHALATBARY OF HIS
OWN DEPARTURE IN MAY AND ASKING AGREEMENT FOR NEW
AMB, WHO IS TO BE PRESENT AFGHAN AMB IN WASHINGTON. MAHMUD-GHAZI
IS NOT SURE WHETHER HE HAS A FUTURE IN AFGHAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE,
GIVEN HIS AGE AND LESS THAN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH MANY OF DAOUD'S
CLOSEST ASSISTANTS. HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO WASHINGTON, BUT TELLS
US HE IS RESIGNED TO RETIRING IF THAT IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
(INCIDENTALLY, WE GATHER HE DOES NOT HAVE A VERY HIGH OPINION
OF PRESENT AFGHAN AMB IN WASHINGTON).
MIKLOS

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